

Kai Yih

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"Maybe it's a bad life, but it's better than living a life in mediocrity."

—Kai Yih

Kai Yih, also known as **Khyé Yit** (July 20, 1253 – June 14, 1311), born **Kanchi ki Raïtt**, literally the *youngest daughter of the Raïtt*, was a former prostitute who became a courtesan and eventually a pirate. She was born in the country of Lichavis, in the region of [Bia Thin](#), along the eastern coast of the [Old Continent](#).

She rose to historical prominence as a pirate during the late 13th and early 14th centuries, both because of her activities throughout the eastern coast and because of her involvement with the first major expedition to the East originating from the [western coast](#), led by the [Temerian](#) explorer [Fabio Sachs](#).

Shortly before Kai and Sachs's expedition crossed paths, she was said to have raided the semi-mythical land of [Anlúmapal](#). The claim has sometimes been compared to the famous stories surrounding Bronwyn "Deadeye", who was once believed to have reached an entirely new continent during her voyages, although later

Kai Yih



Biographical Information

Real Name Kanchi ki Raïtt

Born July 20th, 1253

Birthplace Jûngbû, Lichavis

Status Dead

Died June 14, 1311

evidence established that the land she had encountered was actually the island of [Tikân](#), also known as Basilia.

Kai's career was likewise marked by several extraordinary actions whose morality remained highly questionable, depending considerably upon the perspective from which they were examined. The accounts recorded by Sachs and other members of his expedition eventually led several western historians to compare Kai with Deadeye, the feared Skelliger-born sorceress and raider.

The comparison became particularly common in later western historiography, where both women came to represent exceptionally successful and dangerous female raiders operating far beyond the political structures from which they had originated.

Not everyone who personally encountered Kai agreed with this interpretation, however. Several members of Sachs's expedition considered the comparison misleading—most notably the Griffin witcher [Putnam Pitch](#), who had known Kai considerably more intimately than most of the Westerners responsible for documenting her life. According to Pitch, comparing Kai Yih with Bronwyn Deadeye was inaccurate both for better and for worse.

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Deathplace	Near the coast of Mekan
Service	1275 - 1311
Physical Description	
Race	Human ↗ (Quadroon ↗) (Aen Hagde)
Gender	Female
Hair	Green
Eyes	Pink
Skin	Tanned and freckled
Danger Class	High
Political Information	
Profession	Prostitute (formerly) Courtesan (formerly) Pirate Maritime Commander (formerly) Fisherwoman (formerly) Entrepreneur (formerly)
Rank	Captain
Affiliation	Kai Yih ´s Pirate Confederation Fabio Sachs' Expedition
Alias(es)	Khyé Yit The Black Crane The Pink Monster The Scarlet Siren The Jade Tempest The Green Storm The Terror of the East Among many more
Nationality	Lichavian (Raïttøé ancestry)
Relationships	
Father	Unknown father Hagana Javed (foster father)
Mother	Unknown mother

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Sibling(s)	Unknown older sibling
Lover(s)	- Assur-Wă'vǎ (1275-1282) [lover] Putnam Pitch (1283) [lover] - Samarth Aditya (1283-1290s) [Husband] - A possible affair with a unknown lover (1290s)
Other	- A possible unknown child with Assur-Wă'vǎ - Stillborn child with Samarth Aditya Halsey "The Basan" (niece)

Biography

Birth (1253 A.R)

Kanchi ki Raïtt was born on July 20, 1253 After the Resurrection, in the coastal country of Lichavis, located within the region of [Bia Thin](#), along the eastern coast of the Old Continent. She was born the youngest daughter of the Raïtt family, members of the local Raïttøé ethnic group, a position reflected in her birth name itself.

Kanchi had an older brother who would eventually pursue the study of magic following the loss of his younger sister. Years later, after Kanchi had resurfaced and risen to prominence as the major pirate figure she would ultimately become, he would reunite with her and join her crew.

Kanchi was the daughter of a human father and a half-elven mother of [Aen Hagde](#) ancestry, making her a quadroon. Her mixed ancestry manifested itself particularly noticeably in two of her natural physical traits: green hair and pink eyes, features that would later become among the most immediately recognizable aspects of Kai Yih's appearance.

Early Years (1253–1258 A.R)

Kanchi spent the first years of her life peacefully in the coastal village of Jûngbû, which, like the rest of the coast of Lichavis, faced the Sea of Asatta. This peaceful childhood came to an abrupt end when she was only five years old.

In 1258, Jûngbû was raided by wozous, who attacked and plundered the settlement. During the raid, Kanchi was abducted and separated from her family, who subsequently lost all knowledge of what had happened to her. Rather than remaining anywhere near Lichavis, the child was transported across an enormous distance to Zongguo, where her captors intended to sell her into sexual exploitation.

The profits obtained through such raids and human trafficking formed part of the resources used by the wozous to sustain their centuries-long struggle against the human-established order of the Tuyotuki Islands. For the Raïtt family, Kanchi effectively disappeared that day.

Childhood and Adolescence (1258–1269 A.R)

Kanchi's childhood and adolescence were harsh in many respects. Nevertheless, the constant movement between different places and peoples exposed her to

numerous languages and societies, allowing her to acquire an extensive knowledge of languages and human sociology, as well as, to a lesser extent, that of non-human peoples. Her stay in Zongguo did not last long.

Due to her quadroon ancestry, Kanchi encountered considerable rejection throughout much of the eastern coast. This contrasted notably with what would likely have occurred on the western coast, where prevailing attitudes toward non-humans meant that someone of her ancestry might have been simultaneously discriminated against and fetishized.

Within the different social attitudes prevalent across the eastern coast, however, Kanchi's ancestry instead resulted primarily in rejection. Consequently, she was repeatedly sold and transported from one place to another throughout her childhood and adolescence, passing through different territories and cultural environments until, through a series of circumstances, she eventually reached the Tuyotuki Islands at the age of sixteen.

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There, Kanchi became an oiran, serving as a courtesan. It was during these years that she developed an intense fascination with sailing, ships, and the sea itself. For Kanchi, the ocean represented something considerably more important than simple curiosity or recreation: ships appeared to offer the only realistic means of escaping the terrible circumstances in which she had spent most of her life.

This fascination seemingly remained with her long after she had escaped those circumstances. By the time she encountered Fabio Sachs's expedition, decades later, Putnam Pitch, who became the member of the expedition closest to her, reported that Kai possessed a collection of more than one thousand ships in bottles. The collection was likely a later expression of the fascination she had developed during her adolescence, when ships and the sea had first come to represent the possibility of freedom.

It is also probable that the name by which she would eventually become famous—Kai Yih, alongside variants such as Khyé Yit—originated during this period. These names were likely foreign corruptions of her original name, Kanchi ki Raïtt, which gradually became established as she moved between different linguistic communities and eventually remained with her.

Adolescence, Training, and First Raid as an Independent Pirate

(1269–1275 A.R)

When Kai was around sixteen years old, the city of Yominokuni, located on Takami Island, was attacked by pirates. Takami was not part of the Tuyotuki archipelago itself, but rather one of the remaining territories of the former First Tuyotukian Empire, located relatively close to Ketu Rahu.

During the attack, Kai and several other prostitutes were captured by a Zerrikanian pirate named Hagana Javed, or Hagalér Javed in the original Zerrikanian. Hagana was notably the uncle of the infamous mage Azar Javed, who would later participate in the attack on Kaer Morhen during the early years of the following decade on the western coast.

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Rather than keeping the captured women as prisoners, Hagana eventually freed them and provided them with the means to pursue better lives.

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He nevertheless developed a particularly strong attachment to Kai. Over time, Hagana came to regard her as his own daughter, effectively considering her his second child alongside his biological daughter.

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The precise reasons for this attachment remain unknown. Later historians have suggested that Hagana's circumstances may have played an important role. He was divorced and had reportedly been unable to maintain meaningful contact with his biological daughter for many years, while something about Kai may have reminded him of her. Whatever the reason, Hagana eventually took Kai as his pupil.

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For the first time in her life, her longstanding fascination with ships and the sea became the subject of serious training. Hagana taught her navigation and seamanship, while also ensuring that she learned how to read and write. Her previously practical and fragmented knowledge of languages was developed into more formal linguistic competence, and she received extensive instruction in combat and the various skills required to survive and operate at sea.

More importantly, Hagana transmitted to her the principles he had developed throughout decades of piracy, eventually codified into what became known as Hagana's Pirate Code. In many respects, Hagana became the father Kai had been denied the opportunity to have.

He was already an aging veteran by the time he took her under his wing, however. In 1275, suffering from ailments including old age and gout, Hagana died. Upon his death, he left Kai both his crew and his ship, the Hidden Light.

Kai Yih was now a pirate captain in her own right. Shortly thereafter, she decided that her first independent raid would target the coast of Lichavis, the country in which she had been born. During the raid, Kai's crew captured one of the local defenders. The prisoner turned out to be her biological older brother.

The siblings consequently reunited under extraordinarily unlikely circumstances, nearly seventeen years after Kanchi had been abducted from Jûngbû as a child. Kai eventually persuaded her brother to join her crew, bringing him aboard the Hidden Light.

Their reunion, however, was accompanied by a considerably darker discovery. During the same raid, Kai ordered the burning of what she believed to be an ordinary local residence. She failed to recognize the building, as it had been extensively renovated during the many years since her disappearance.

It was her childhood home. Her biological parents were still inside. Without realizing it until afterward, Kai had killed them. The discovery deeply traumatized her and became one of the experiences that shaped her increasingly uncompromising conception of piracy and freedom.

Combined with the principles inherited from her adoptive father, it contributed to Kai's belief that pirates possessed a responsibility extending beyond raiding and personal enrichment. According to Hagana's Pirate Code, it was the duty of a pirate to overthrow oppressive governments whenever the opportunity presented itself, thereby demonstrating to the world the benefits of what Hagana regarded as true freedom.

For Kai, this principle would eventually become considerably more than an inherited maxim. It became a personal obsession.

Consolidation, Fame and Infamy as a Pirate (1275–1282 A.R)

From 1275 until approximately one year before her encounter with the Sachs Expedition, Kai Yih consolidated her position as one of the most prominent pirate figures of her time.

Her rise was extraordinarily rapid. Kai achieved an almost uninterrupted series of successful raids along the coasts of Yin, Yan, Ultari, Mu, Waizahau, Celephaïs, [Ketu Rahu](#), Tiâm, and Mendari, gradually establishing a reputation that extended across much of the eastern coast.

One of the most famous episodes of this period occurred at the Dragon's Throat,

the strategically important strait connecting the Sea of Division with the Dragon Sea. There, Kai confronted and defeated the Great Zerrikanian Fleet, which had been deployed to recover a rebellious province, despite commanding only a single ship.

Later accounts frequently portrayed the battle as an intentional intervention in support of the rebels. According to sources closer to Kai herself, however, her motivations were considerably less ideological on this particular occasion the Zerrikanian fleet was simply blocking her passage.

Her growing reputation also brought her increasingly into conflict with other pirates. Rather than merely competing with them, Kai began attacking rival pirate crews, defeating their captains and forcing the survivors into submission. These subordinate crews gradually formed the foundations of the pirate confederation that would later operate under her leadership.

Her reputation consequently became deeply contradictory. To some observers, Kai Yih was simply another pirate a destructive raider responsible for pillage, violence, and instability throughout the eastern coast.

To others, she came to resemble a politically neutral force of nature, unpredictable and dangerous but nevertheless capable of producing beneficial change—particularly when her targets were other pirates or rulers whose actions she regarded as tyrannical.

This ambiguity became especially evident in Ultari. During the early years of her career, Kai contributed to the collapse of several authoritarian regimes throughout the region. Her most intensive campaigns displayed a recognizable pattern they disproportionately targeted states characterized by particularly oppressive governments and severe restrictions on women's rights.

She also became known for freeing numerous women from prostitution, an activity almost certainly influenced by her own experiences during childhood and adolescence and the deep hatred of the institution that those experiences had produced.

Outside such campaigns, Kai's raids against coastal settlements tended to be considerably more sporadic and driven primarily by necessity. Whenever possible, she preferred to obtain supplies and wealth by raiding other pirates and their vessels rather than systematically preying upon coastal populations. Despite this selective pattern of violence, Kai never became a privateer. Doing so would have required placing herself and her activities under the authority of a

state—precisely the kind of dependency that conflicted with her conception of piracy and freedom.

Her exploits earned her numerous epithets across the eastern coast, translated into Nordlingaen by later western historians in forms such as *the Pink Monster*, *the Black Crane*, *the Scarlet Siren*, and *the Jade Tempest*, among many others.

Her extraordinary run of victories, however, did not last indefinitely. Between 1280 and 1282, Kai suffered a succession of significant defeats. Her pirate confederation became impossible to maintain and was temporarily dissolved. She lost or abandoned several ships during this period and experienced substantial turnover among her crews.

It was during these increasingly difficult years that Kai attempted one of the most ambitious—and disastrous—projects of her career. Together with Assur-Wǎ'vǎ, a pirate from D'uíp with whom she had entered into a romantic relationship, Kai attempted to establish what later historians would call the Free Anti-State of Balgi, located off the coast of D'uíp in the island of the same name.

The experiment survived for only a few months. In exchange for a considerable fortune, Assur betrayed Kai. Shortly afterward, Balgi was besieged by a coalition of vessels belonging to several states of D'uíp. The Free Anti-State collapsed. Forced to flee, Kai and the remnants of her forces sailed inland through the navigable river systems of mountainous Buyan, where she sought refuge beyond the immediate reach of her enemies.

It was there, in 1283, that she would encounter Fabio Sachs and the members of his expedition.

One particularly uncertain aspect of Kai's life also originates from this period. Some historians have speculated that Kai and Assur may have had a child together. Years later, Assur was reportedly seen displaying an unusually strong attachment toward a young child of apparently mixed ancestry. No definitive evidence has ever established that the child was Kai's.

The hypothesis nevertheless gained additional attention because of observations later made by Putnam Pitch. During the time he spent with Kai, the witcher noticed that she displayed an unusually strong aversion toward children. Pitch privately speculated that this behavior might have originated from the trauma of having once had a child who either died or was taken away from her. He was never able to establish the truth. According to Fabio Sachs's later

writings, whenever Pitch attempted to pursue the subject, Kai had a tendency to employ what Sachs euphemistically described as her "*womanly weapons*" to ensure that the conversation went no further. Although the evidence remains circumstantial, later historians have generally regarded the possibility that Kai had a child with Assur as plausible.

The Alleged Raid on Anlúmapal (Late 1282 – Early 1283 A.R)

Shortly before her encounter with the Sachs Expedition in Buyan, Kai Yih allegedly traveled as far as the semi-mythical land of Anlúmapal.

At the time, Kai was attempting to escape the numerous forces pursuing her following the collapse of her previous ventures. These included not only Buyanese privateers, but vessels and agents belonging to several states throughout Bia Thin, where she had effectively become one of the most notorious and dangerous criminals operating along the eastern coast. According to later accounts, Kai may have used this period to sail far beyond the territories in which her pursuers normally operated, eventually reaching Anlúmapal and allegedly raiding its shores before returning once the intensity of the search for her had diminished.

Unlike Bronwyn Deadeye's supposed discovery of a new continent, which was later demonstrated to have involved Basilia, or the island of Tikân, Kai's alleged voyage to Anlúmapal has never been conclusively verified. Kai herself apparently never spoke about such a journey, nor did any known member of her crew leave a surviving account confirming it.

Several explanations have been proposed for this silence. The voyage may simply never have occurred, with the story developing later as part of the growing mythology surrounding Kai Yih. Alternatively, members of her crew may have deliberately refused to discuss the expedition out of loyalty or respect for their captain.

Only extremely weak circumstantial evidence has ever been offered in support of the story. The name Anlúmapal has been translated as either *The Land of the Tall Majestic Palm Trees* or, more simply, *The Land of Palms*. Putnam Pitch later recorded that, during the period he spent aboard Kai's ship, he frequently observed dates and several similar fruits inside the captain's cabin.

Some later writers interpreted their presence as possible evidence that Kai had recently visited Anlúmapal. However, this argument is generally regarded as

inconclusive at best. Palm trees occur throughout numerous regions of the known world, while dates and similar fruits can be preserved and transported over considerable distances. Kai could therefore have acquired them almost anywhere through trade, piracy, or previous voyages.

Even if they originated in a distant region, several alternative candidates exist. They could, for instance, have come from [Ofir](#) if Kai had indeed traveled unusually far during her disappearance, or from considerably closer territories within Bia Thin, parts of which possess tropical climates capable of supporting similar vegetation. Consequently, whether Kai Yih ever reached—and much less raided—Anlúmapal remains unknown.

Encounter with the Sachs Expedition (Late Spring–Early Summer 1283 A.R)

Kai Yih's encounter with the Sachs Expedition occurred as a direct consequence of her intention to overthrow the military government then ruling Buyan.

Following the Red Masks Rebellion, the Buyanese monarchy had been overthrown by three brothers sharing the same second name: Chalik Dreki, Norbu Dreki, and Tandin Dreki. Together, they established the Dreki Triumvirate, placing themselves at the head of the new regime. Buyan subsequently entered the period later known as the Years of Distrust, or the Great Sacrifice. Fear that foreign powers might eventually deprive the Buyanese of their independence produced an increasingly xenophobic and nearly autarkic society. Over time, the Dreki regime became progressively more authoritarian, paranoid, and unstable, consistently justifying its actions as necessary measures to protect the population from external threats.

Several factors motivated Kai's opposition to the triumvirate. She desperately needed resources following the collapse of her previous ventures, while the Dreki government maintained virtually no tolerance toward piracy and regarded a figure of Kai's reputation as an especially significant threat. This relentless persecution has occasionally been cited as further circumstantial evidence supporting the theory that Kai temporarily fled as far as the semi-mythical land of Anlúmapal shortly before these events.

More importantly, however, the increasingly dictatorial character of the regime placed it directly within the category of governments Kai had repeatedly targeted throughout her career.

The Sachs Expedition encountered this political environment under particularly unfavorable circumstances. Due to the country's extreme xenophobia and the expedition members' status as foreigners, they were poorly received almost immediately upon entering Buyan. Their intention to negotiate a commercial treaty on behalf of Lyria and Rivia only worsened the situation.

Upon making contact with the Buyanese population, the expedition was attacked, subdued, arrested, and brought before the country's judicial authorities solely on account of its foreign origin and diplomatic objectives. The authorities interpreted the proposed trade agreement as a potential instrument through which a foreign power might gradually establish control over Buyan. Having endured considerable hardship in preserving their independence, many Buyanese were unwilling to tolerate even the possibility of such an outcome.

The expedition was consequently imprisoned in Bhoatanta, one of the Buyanese cities bordering Bia Thin and the country's new capital following the establishment of the triumvirate. Ironically, the expedition escaped almost certain execution thanks to two completely unrelated factors Buyanese bureaucracy and Kai Yih.

As part of her plans against the Dreki, Kai had decided that she first required considerable resources. She therefore targeted Bhoatanta, then the wealthiest city in Buyan, beginning what would eventually become her guerrilla campaign against the triumvirate. During the resulting sack of the city, Kai's forces reached the prison and captured the expedition. Their situation had therefore technically improved only in the sense that they were no longer awaiting execution by the Buyanese government.

Kai initially considered either incorporating some of the foreigners into her crews or selling them as slaves for a considerable profit due to their exotic origins and appearance. The latter possibility appears to have been considerably more likely. Fortunately for the expedition, neither occurred.

The circumstances through which the expedition obtained its freedom involved a peculiar combination of charisma, recklessness, and extraordinary luck, primarily centered around the Griffin School witcher Putnam Pitch.

During their interrogations, the expedition discovered that Kai spoke [Nordlingaen](#), or Common Nordling. She had learned the language from Hagana Javed, who had considered knowledge of distant languages potentially useful to his pupil. Curiously, Hagana had previously taught the same language to his

nephew, Azar Javed, before the mage eventually traveled north.

The discovery allowed Putnam to communicate directly with Kai. This did not initially improve the expedition's circumstances. According to Fabio Sachs, Pitch proceeded to behave like “*an absolute asshole*”, answering virtually every question Kai asked him with an attitude that increasingly tested the pirate captain's patience. Kai eventually responded by kicking him in the face several times. Pitch nevertheless continued challenging her until Kai finally ordered him to walk the plank.

By this point, however, the members of the expedition had already developed strong bonds with one another. The mage Eberhatt of Rivia, also a lycanthrope, had been without the medication he normally used to control his condition for several days while in captivity. Seeing his friend about to be killed finally pushed the already unstable Eberhatt beyond his ability to maintain control. He transformed. Unfortunately, while his initial intention had been to save Putnam, Eberhatt rapidly became a threat to virtually everyone aboard the ship, including Kai herself.

Putnam and [Łukasz](#), a witcher of the [School of the Wolf](#) and the second witcher of the expedition, intervened. Pitch protected Kai directly from the transformed mage, while Łukasz ultimately managed to force Eberhatt back into his human form. Kai survived and the status of the prisoners changed dramatically.

Kai appears to have developed considerable respect for Pitch following the incident. Fabio Sachs later attributed this partly to Putnam having had, in his words, “*the balls to answer back and see it through to the end.*”

Kai subsequently decided that the wounded witcher should recover in the safest and most comfortable location available aboard the vessel her own cabin and bed. She also personally assisted in treating the injuries she had inflicted upon him, although Pitch's witcher mutations and thus enhanced regenerative capabilities reduced the seriousness of the necessary medical care.

There was also a practical reason for keeping him nearby. Having personally protected Kai from Eberhatt, Putnam effectively became an informal bodyguard in case the mage transformed again.

Proximity subsequently did the rest. A brief but intense romantic relationship developed between Kai Yih and Putnam Pitch. For some time, however, the other members of the expedition remained completely unaware that anything had occurred between them.

The relationship only became apparent during meetings held in preparation for the campaign against the Dreki Triumvirate. During one such meeting, Kai made a statement whose meaning the expedition members failed to understand. The assembled pirates subsequently began approaching Putnam and presenting him with objects of varying value as gestures of respect.

Pitch himself had no idea why. His bewildered reaction and subsequent attempts to determine what was happening inadvertently exposed the nature of his relationship with Kai to the rest of the expedition. Unfortunately, no known transcript of these meetings survives, and the precise statement made by Kai—and therefore the exact status she had publicly bestowed upon Pitch—remains unknown.

The custom nevertheless appears to have possessed considerable significance among members of Kai's confederation. Decades later, during the early 14th century, when Pitch increasingly began protecting ships from maritime monsters during what would eventually be regarded as his proto-Crane period, he reportedly encountered several pirates who had participated in those meetings. They once again presented their respects to him. More remarkably, none attacked any vessel aboard which Pitch was traveling. The exact reason remains unknown.

The Alliance Against the Dreki

Following the Eberhatt incident, Kai agreed to transport the expedition wherever its members wished to go. There was, however, a condition. In exchange, the expedition would assist her guerrilla campaign against the Dreki Triumvirate.

Kai's motivations for overthrowing the regime were also more personal than they initially appeared. The Raïttøé, her ethnic group, had historically been one of approximately thirty ethnic groups inhabiting Buyan. During the country's war of independence from Zerrikania, the conflict had displaced them into neighboring Lichavis. Kai had therefore been born in Lichavis, but had spent the first five years of her life being raised within Raïttøé culture and its inherited connection to Buyan.

Consequently, despite possessing little direct knowledge of the mountainous country itself, Kai regarded Buyan as her homeland in an intensely personal sense.

The attack on Bhoatanta that had inadvertently rescued the Sachs Expedition

was therefore also the opening action of her campaign to liberate it. The expedition accepted Kai's proposal, both because she guaranteed them safe passage afterward and because antagonizing one of the most dangerous pirates on the eastern coast immediately after escaping execution was considered profoundly unwise. Shortly thereafter, Kai summoned what remained of her pirate confederation.

By early summer 1283, its members had answered the call. A series of meetings followed, after which coordinated attacks against the Dreki regime began. These operations would ultimately bring about the fall of the triumvirate.

The End of Dreki Tyranny (Early Summer 1283 A.R)

“Fabio, it's a personal and private gift. No, I'm not letting you use the crossbow. I don't even know how to use it properly yet! Yesterday Eberhatt had to heal Istredd because I shot him in the shoulder after he stood there staring at some rocks and I aimed badly”

—Putnam Pitch

The process of reassembling Kai Yih's pirate confederation took considerably less time than the expedition had initially anticipated. More importantly, Kai managed to gather and organize her forces without attracting the attention of the Buyanese government.

The resulting fleet was immense. Approximately thirty ships and ten thousand pirates, including Kai's own crew, eventually assembled under her command. Such a force was able to operate surprisingly effectively within the region due to the enormous size of its river systems. Several of Buyan and thus Bia Thin's rivers were considerably wider than even the Pontar in the Northern Realms, allowing the pirate fleet to navigate without suffering the severe congestion that might otherwise have been expected.

Following several strategic meetings, Kai's plan was put into action. For the members of the Sachs Expedition, adapting to life among thousands of pirates proved somewhat uncomfortable at first. None were particularly familiar with such an environment, although they gradually adjusted. Putnam Pitch, and somewhat surprisingly Istredd, adapted particularly well.

The confederation itself was extraordinarily diverse. Its members originated throughout the Far East, although pirates from Bia Thin and the Tuyotuki Islands formed its largest contingents. Zerrikanians constituted another significant

group, while smaller numbers of [Melukkans](#) and peoples from other lands such as local Buyanese were also present.

During this period, Putnam Pitch and Łukasz were identified as witchers by members of the confederation. As a gesture of respect, the two were presented with two sets of armor that had once belonged to members of the now-extinct [School of the Lungonite](#), an institution entirely unknown to either witcher at the time.

The discovery would later contribute to Istredd's research into the historical dispersal of witchers across the Old Continent. During the 1290s, with indirect assistance from Putnam—who had encountered several "exotic" [witcher schools](#) during his travels, including the extinct [Schools of the Spider](#) and the [Scorpion](#), as well as the still-active [School of the Lion](#)—Istredd published an essay proposing that the fragmentation of the original [Order of Witchers](#) had resulted in migrations considerably more extensive than previously assumed. According to his hypothesis, witcher schools may have emerged throughout much of the Old Continent rather than being limited primarily to the Northern Realms, Nilfgaard, and [Zerrikania](#).

The War of the Rivers

Kai's campaign against the Dreki Triumvirate became known as the War of the Rivers, owing to the extensive use of naval warfare throughout Buyan's immense river systems. Rather than attempting to conquer Buyan directly, Kai transformed her existing guerrilla campaign into a considerably larger and more coordinated operation.

For greater security, she relocated much of the confederation into neighboring Bia Thin, from where the already mentioned Buyanese pirates and sympathetic crews from surrounding countries could operate beyond the immediate reach of the Dreki government. Kai then launched a succession of coordinated raids against Buyanese cities, military positions, supply routes, and strategic infrastructure.

Although these attacks were undeniably violent and frequently brutal, Kai issued strict orders intended to minimize unnecessary civilian casualties. Her primary targets were the military forces and institutions supporting the triumvirate, rather than the civilian population itself. This distinction was fundamental to her strategy.

Kai understood that indiscriminate attacks against Buyanese civilians would likely strengthen the Dreki regime. Faced with an obvious external enemy, even citizens hostile toward the triumvirate might rally behind their government in defense of their homeland. Instead, Kai sought to demonstrate that the regime was incapable of fulfilling the very promise upon which it had justified its authoritarianism protecting Buyan from foreign threats.

Military installations were attacked. Supply lines were disrupted. Strongholds fell. Cities were raided despite the government's assurances of security. Kai's forces systematically exposed weaknesses within the Dreki military apparatus while attempting to leave the civilian population with as little reason as possible to identify the pirates themselves as the principal enemy.

The objective was not merely military destruction, but political delegitimization. Kai hoped that repeated failures would deepen existing public resentment and eventually convince the Buyanese that the triumvirate had sacrificed their freedoms without even providing the security supposedly gained in exchange.

The strategy succeeded. Mounting dissatisfaction eventually erupted into the Great Summer Rebellion, during which the Buyanese population turned against the Dreki Triumvirate.

The regime collapsed. In its place arose a restored monarchy under a new dynasty of Dragon Kings, the third dynasty of the Buyanese monarchy and one that would eventually become among the longest-lasting in the country's history.

Throughout the War of the Rivers, the relationship between Kai Yih and Putnam Pitch also changed considerably. What had initially developed into a largely casual sexual relationship gradually became something more serious. The prolonged campaign placed the two in repeated situations of danger, cooperation, disagreement, and mutual reliance, allowing their initial attraction and respect to develop into a genuine emotional bond.

By the final stages of the campaign, Kai and Putnam regarded themselves as a couple. Their relationship, however, contained a fundamental problem that neither could permanently ignore.

Their lives were incompatible. Kai was a pirate captain whose identity, responsibilities, ambitions, and political philosophy were inseparable from life at sea and the confederation she had spent years constructing. Putnam was a witcher traveling as part of Fabio Sachs's expedition, bound not only by the

expedition's objectives but by profound loyalty toward its members—particularly Sachs, whom he regarded as his closest friend.

Once the Dreki regime had fallen, Kai honored the agreement she had made with the expedition and transported them toward their chosen next destination [Zerzura](#). The decision to travel there had itself been controversial. Several expedition members disliked the prospect of returning once again to the broader [Barsa](#) region, while Putnam was particularly opposed due to what he had heard during their time in Haakland regarding Zerzura and its extensive reliance upon slavery.

A vote was nevertheless held. The majority chose Zerzura. Putnam accepted the result. One of the few factors making the destination personally worthwhile to him was the possibility of locating [D'yaebi](#). He hoped either to find her alive and return a sword intended for her, or, if she had died, recover what remained of her and provide her with a dignified burial.

Other expedition members considered Zerzura a logical destination for considerably more practical reasons. Beyond exploration itself, their journey had been financed by Queen Meve partly in the hope of obtaining commercial opportunities for Lyria and Rivia. Zerzura, the true (in a sense) last independent remnant of the former Southern Kingdoms, or Barsa, was renowned throughout the East for its prosperity.

As the expedition approached the city, Kai and Putnam finally confronted what both had understood from the beginning. Their relationship could not continue without one of them abandoning the life they had chosen.

Kai offered Putnam a place aboard her ship and within her crew. He declined. His decision was not motivated by a lack of affection. Even with Łukasz remaining alongside the expedition as another witcher capable of protecting its members, Putnam was unwilling to abandon his companions—and above all Fabio Sachs.

Kai and Putnam consequently ended their romantic relationship by mutual agreement and chose to remain friends. For Putnam, the decision represented the second occasion in his life in which he managed to end a romantic relationship with considerable emotional responsibility. Although the separation caused him significant pain, later accounts present it as another important stage in his gradual recovery from previous experiences and his developing ability to accept that a relationship could be meaningful without needing to last indefinitely.

Before they parted, Kai gave him one final personal gift her treasured Zerrikanian repeating crossbow. The weapon remained with Putnam as both a practical object and a reminder of their brief relationship, the experiences they had shared in Buyan, and Kai's characteristically pragmatic approach to life.

Shortly thereafter, the Sachs Expedition continued toward Zerzura and Kai Yih returned to the sea.

Time in the Shadows (1283–1290s A.R)

Following the events in Buyan, Kai Yih reached the height of both her fame and infamy.

Her role in the fall of the Dreki Triumvirate, combined with her already extensive record of piracy throughout the eastern coast, transformed her into one of the most wanted criminals in the region. Numerous governments dramatically increased the rewards offered for her capture or death. One of the most extreme examples came from the Tuyotuki Islands, where the bounty placed upon Kai eventually reached approximately 10,000,000 ryos.

At the same time, her success in Buyan had allowed her to partially rebuild the pirate confederation that had once operated under her influence. Ironically, this resurgence contributed directly to its destruction.

The Golden Age of Privateers

The growing threat represented by Kai's confederation encouraged several Eastern governments to dramatically expand their reliance upon privateers. The resulting campaign became so extensive that the period would later be remembered in Eastern historiography as the Golden Age of Privateers.

Pirate crews throughout the region were systematically hunted down. Kai's confederation suffered particularly catastrophic losses. By the end of the campaign, it is estimated that barely ten percent of those who had belonged to the organization survived. Kai herself was among them.

The decisive disaster occurred during the Battle of the Blind, fought near the coast of the island of Mu and named after the extraordinarily dense fog that covered the battlefield.

Kai and her allies attempted to lure the privateer coalition into a trap. The plan failed catastrophically. Instead of destroying their pursuers, the pirates found

themselves caught in a massacre that effectively ended Kai's confederation as a significant regional force. Kai survived largely thanks to the same weather conditions that had contributed to the confusion of the battle, managing to escape under cover of the dense fog.

She nevertheless suffered serious and permanent injuries, losing two fingers from her right hand as well as part of her left foot. Combined with the enormous loss of life among her followers, the defeat forced Kai to accept something she had previously resisted she needed to disappear.

Kai subsequently traveled far from her traditional areas of operation, eventually reaching Melukka, and more specifically the city-state of Haraiva. There, she negotiated an unusual arrangement with the local authorities. Kai received amnesty for her previous crimes in exchange for providing Haraiva with detailed information concerning the maritime vulnerabilities of numerous coastal states she had encountered throughout her career.

Given her circumstances, she accepted. The information proved extremely valuable. Haraiva subsequently exploited Kai's extensive knowledge through its own privateers, whose operations against vulnerable maritime targets contributed considerably to the enrichment of the city-state's treasury.

Kai herself remained in Haraiva into the 1290s. For perhaps the first sustained period of her adult life, she abandoned piracy entirely. She became a fisherwoman. Ironically, this may have been among the occupations she would most plausibly have followed had she never been abducted from Jûngbû as a child.

During her years in Haraiva, Kai met Samarth Aditya, another former pirate who had similarly abandoned his previous life after receiving an amnesty. Unlike Kai, Samarth's piracy had largely been restricted to Melukka and its surrounding peninsula. By the time they met, he had also become a fisherman.

Samarth helped Kai integrate into Haraivan society, and their relationship gradually became romantic. The two eventually married and established a successful fishing guild, which became sufficiently prosperous to make them wealthy. For a time, Kai therefore possessed something almost entirely absent from the rest of her biography a stable home, a legal occupation, considerable wealth, and a husband.

The couple also attempted to have a family. Kai became pregnant, but their child was stillborn. If the earlier speculation concerning a possible child with Assur-

Wǎ'vǎ is accurate, this would have represented Kai's second known or suspected experience of motherhood. Unlike the alleged first child, however, the existence and death of her child with Samarth are considerably better established.

The marriage gradually deteriorated. By approximately 1295–1299, Kai and Samarth had become increasingly distant, apparently due to a combination of grief, their professional responsibilities, and the decreasing amount of time they spent together.

Later accounts additionally claimed that both engaged in extramarital affairs. Whether these accusations were entirely accurate remains uncertain. Regardless of their precise circumstances, the marriage ultimately ended in divorce.

Their fishing guild was dissolved, its accumulated wealth was divided between them, and the two went their separate ways. By then, however, the political situation throughout much of the eastern coast had changed considerably. The intense pursuit that had once forced Kai into hiding had diminished.

For the first time in years, the waters were calm—in more than one sense. Kai Yih returned to the sea. Her new vessel would eventually become the final ship she personally commanded The Melancholic. Its name originated from the peculiar timber used in its construction, which produced distinctive creaking sounds as the hull moved through the water. Sailors reportedly compared the sound to someone lamenting.

Later Years (1290s–1310s A.R)

Following the end of her retirement in Haraiva, Kai Yih returned to piracy aboard The Melancholic. During the first years after her return, her activities largely resembled those of her earlier career. She once again raided ships and coastal settlements, gradually rebuilding a reputation that had diminished during her years in hiding.

However, as the 1310s approached, a noticeable change began to emerge in her methods. Whether this transformation resulted from age, the catastrophic experiences of the Battle of the Blind, her years living peacefully in Melukka, the death of her child, or some combination of these factors remains unknown.

What is clear is that Kai's understanding of piracy had changed. She continued to raid settlements and seize considerable amounts of wealth, but increasingly retained only what she and her crew required to maintain their vessel, purchase

supplies, compensate their members, and continue operating. Most of the remaining wealth was subsequently distributed among the poorest sections of the local population. Once this redistribution had been completed, Kai and her crew simply departed and repeated the process elsewhere.

The apparent contradiction was characteristic of her later career: Kai continued to inflict the disruption associated with piracy while simultaneously attempting to ensure that much of the wealth she seized ultimately benefited those whom she considered most disadvantaged. Consequently, interpretations of her activities during this period vary considerably. Some later accounts portrayed the aging Kai as having become a benefactor of the poor, while others emphasized that the wealth she distributed had nevertheless been obtained through violence and theft. Kai herself appears to have made little effort to resolve the contradiction.

This transformation also appears to have contributed to the eventual separation between Kai and her biological brother. He had remained alongside her for decades, having originally joined her crew after Kai unknowingly captured him during her first independent raid against the coast of their native Lichavis.

Following the disastrous Battle of the Blind, he and other surviving members of Kai's crew had accompanied her into exile in Melukka, where they similarly settled during her temporary retirement from piracy. However, sometime around 1307–1311, the siblings finally separated. Although the precise cause is uncertain, surviving accounts suggest that Kai's increasingly unusual approach to piracy may have played an important role. Her brother ultimately retained command or possession of *The Melancholic*, forcing Kai to acquire another vessel.

This separation would have consequences extending far beyond either sibling's lifetime together. Kai's brother later entered a relationship with a Tuyotukian woman, with whom he eventually had a daughter. That child, [Halsey Bo Pitch](#), would experience an extraordinary life of her own.

Through circumstances entirely disconnected from Kai's original intentions, Halsey was born into slavery in the Nilfgaardian overseas provinces of the Western Continent. She would later be rescued and adopted by Putnam Pitch, Kai's former lover from the Sachs Expedition. Halsey subsequently became part of the first generation of witchers trained by the [School of the Crane](#), as well as the school's first known fully trained and mutated witcheress.

Thus, decades after the relationship between Kai and Putnam had ended, the two became indirectly connected once again through Kai's niece.

The separation from her brother also marked the end of Kai's association with The Melancholic. She subsequently obtained what would become her final vessel. The circumstances surrounding her last years aboard this ship remain considerably less certain than those of her earlier career. At some point, Kai decided to attempt an extraordinarily ambitious voyage toward the western coast, a journey that would ultimately result in her death.

Whether her brother participated in the voyage remains disputed. Several later stories suggest that he may have accompanied Kai during at least part of the attempted voyage, while other reconstructions place his departure from her life firmly before the expedition began. His considerably prolonged lifespan as a mage further complicates attempts to reconstruct the chronology, particularly given events involving his daughter that occurred decades later.

What is certain is that Kai herself undertook the journey and it would be her last.

Death

Kai Yih died on June 14, 1311 After the Resurrection, at the age of 57, aboard her final ship, the Bloody Smile.

Ironically, considering the countless battles, raids, political upheavals, betrayals, and other dangers she had survived throughout her life, Kai did not die in combat. During what would become her final voyage, she attempted to travel to the western coast as mentioned earlier, a region of the world she had never previously visited despite her extensive travels throughout the east.

The expedition proved fatal due to a comparatively mundane but catastrophic mistake: insufficient provisions had been prepared for such an extraordinarily long voyage. As the journey continued, scurvy spread throughout the crew. Kai herself eventually succumbed to the disease alongside the remaining members of the Bloody Smile's crew while the vessel was sailing through waters relatively close to the island of [Mekan](#).

Thus ended the life of one of the most famous—and controversial—pirates of the eastern coast, not at the hands of an enemy fleet or during one of the political struggles in which she had repeatedly involved herself, but through a logistical failure during an attempt to reach the opposite side of the known world.

Appearance

“Putnam, between you and me, you have many virtues, but your taste in women isn't one of them. Not physically, mind you. In every other respect”

—Fabio Sachs

Kai Yih was described as an unusually tall woman, although still noticeably shorter than Putnam Pitch, who stood approximately 1.92 meters tall. When Fabio Sachs first encountered her, he estimated her height to be somewhere between 1.80 and 1.85 meters, although this was merely a visual approximation made relative to his own considerably shorter height of approximately 1.60 meters.

According to the accounts produced by members of the expedition, both during their initial period as Kai's captives and their later time as allies, she possessed an elegant yet commanding presence and figure. Much of the surviving information concerning her appearance and mannerisms originates particularly from Pitch, who spent considerably more time in her company due to the unusual and privileged position he eventually occupied compared with the other members of the expedition.

At first glance, Kai's physique did not necessarily resemble that of many of her male counterparts. Whereas numerous pirates relied primarily upon brute physical strength, Kai's fighting style and bodily conditioning emphasized agility, speed, and precision.

The same distinction extended to her leadership. Kai generally did not maintain authority through simple fear. Instead, she had earned the respect of her crews to such a degree that many of her followers reportedly regarded her as the only person among them genuinely capable and deserving of leading them.

Like many peoples of the eastern coast, Kai possessed characteristically almond-shaped eyes. Hers were particularly distinctive due to their unusual natural coloration, described as resembling rose quartz. She had long, straight dark green hair, accompanied by high cheekbones, full lips, and skin whose complexion ranged between light olive and olive.

According to Pitch, Kai's body was also extensively covered in freckles, although the reliability and objectivity of his observations regarding this particular subject

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have occasionally been questioned for fairly obvious reasons.

Pitch provided only limited information regarding the rest of her body and categorically refused to elaborate when questioned further. From what other members of the expedition were able to observe, Istredd remarked that Kai broadly resembled the Nordling ideal of beauty commonly associated with sorceresses, albeit in what he considered a somewhat rougher or less refined form. His assessment, however, may itself have been influenced by his own experiences and personal history prior to the expedition.

Kai also possessed notably broad shoulders, likely resulting in part from extensive swimming and maritime activity. According to Pitch, her back bore an enormous tattoo depicting a black crane.

Curiously, Kai was known to alter her appearance before particularly important meetings. On such occasions, she would use cosmetics to make her complexion appear noticeably paler and dye her hair a considerably darker shade of green. The reason for this practice was never definitively established. Even Pitch, despite his unusually close relationship with her, apparently never learned its meaning. He speculated that the habit may have originated as a custom developed or imposed during Kai's years as a prostitute and later as a courtesan. Whether this interpretation was correct remains unknown.

Coat of Arms

Kai Yih possessed a personal coat of arms that became one of the most recognizable symbols associated with her throughout the eastern coast.

Her primary emblem depicted a black crane taking flight against the backdrop of a sunrise. The design appeared most prominently upon the flags flown by her ships, but its use extended considerably beyond maritime identification. Kai also employed the emblem as a personal seal on correspondence, while members of her crews occasionally reproduced it as graffiti following successful raids. In the latter context, the symbol functioned as something resembling a territorial or reputational marker. Leaving the black crane behind informed other pirates and interested parties that Kai Yih and her people had already operated in the area.

As her fame and infamy increased, however, the emblem became a liability. The black crane had become sufficiently recognizable that displaying it could immediately reveal Kai's presence or identify vessels and individuals associated

with her. During periods of particularly intense persecution, most notably when authorities and privateers throughout the eastern coast were actively hunting her, an alternative emblem was therefore adopted.

This secondary symbol consisted of a red-filled hourglass against a white background. Unlike the black crane, the hourglass was deliberately less immediately associated with Kai, allowing her forces to retain a recognizable internal symbol without openly displaying the identity of one of the most wanted pirates in the East.

Personality

Accounts of Kai Yih's personality vary considerably depending on the individual describing her, although the surviving testimonies generally complement rather than directly contradict one another.

Istredd described her primarily as a quiet woman, while Fabio Sachs considered her excessively serious. Putnam Pitch, who spent considerably more time with her than most members of the expedition, offered a substantially more detailed assessment. According to him, Kai greatly enjoyed philosophical discussions and cared deeply for those she considered her own, occasionally to such an extent that her concern became overprotective or controlling.

Members of her crews similarly described her as focused yet intensely passionate, comparing her temperament to a river held back by a dam, outwardly controlled, but concealing considerable force beneath the surface.

Łukasz described her as tyrannical but efficient, even in her kindness, as well as a woman with an unusual sense of humor and a soft laugh. Pitch strongly disputed the characterization of her humor as strange, although his objectivity regarding Kai was, once again, questionable. According to Eberhatt and Monga, she was pragmatic but strict, possessing a strong sense of honor and considerable respect for others whenever they demonstrated themselves to be capable individuals worthy of it.

Pitch's accounts provide an even more complex portrait. He described Kai as melancholic, ambitious, sensible, determined, analytical, tenacious, and remarkably consistent within what could initially appear to be chaotic behavior. He also described her as a hedonist, although he conspicuously declined to elaborate upon what exactly he meant by this characterization.

Kai was generally composed, but reportedly possessed a considerable temper when genuinely angered. Several members of the expedition also regarded her as vain, or at least interpreted her behavior as vanity through a western cultural perspective.

Kai had a pronounced taste for expensive silk clothing, jewelry, and other forms of personal ornamentation. One particularly notable habit was her practice of wearing a ring obtained from every place she had successfully raided. Pitch reportedly assisted her on numerous occasions in selecting rings and other pieces of jewelry for her collection.

Her apparent vanity extended beyond her appearance. During meetings of the pirate confederation witnessed by members of the expedition, as well as in her ordinary interactions with her crews, Kai had a habit of reminding individuals of “*their place*” whenever they attempted to challenge her authority or prolong an argument beyond what she considered reasonable.

Pitch consistently rejected the interpretation that this behavior represented simple arrogance. He pointed in particular to the fact that Kai almost never needed to raise her voice when asserting her authority, arguing that her apparent vanity was therefore, in his words, “*justified*.” Once again, however, Pitch was hardly the most impartial surviving source regarding Kai Yih.

Skills

Beyond her remarkable leadership abilities, Kai Yih possessed a wide range of skills acquired throughout her unusually varied life, particularly as a consequence of her childhood and adolescence across the eastern coast and the extensive training she later received from Hagana Javed.

Languages

One of Kai's most notable abilities was her aptitude for languages.

In addition to her native language, she was reportedly fluent in six languages: three different dialects spoken throughout Bia Thin, Idaisa no Gengo, commonly and incorrectly referred to by foreigners as Tuyotukian, Zerrikanian, and Nordlingaen, or Common Nordling.

She could additionally communicate effectively, although without complete

fluency, in another six languages: three coastal creoles, [Common Ofieri](#), Kešda—the native language of her former lover Assur-Wă'vă—and Buyanese.

Her limited knowledge of Buyanese appears to have originated during her earliest childhood. Kai was raised in a bilingual Raïttôé household until her abduction at the age of five, allowing her to retain enough of the language to communicate at a basic level despite having spent most of her life elsewhere.

Finally, she possessed fragments of approximately six additional languages, although her knowledge of these was apparently limited to isolated expressions, words, and extremely simple sentences.

Curiously, their identities were never properly recorded. Kai's knowledge of these languages was so rudimentary that those who heard her use them assumed that she was either incorrectly reproducing foreign expressions or simply uttering meaningless words. Consequently, no member of the Sachs Expedition ever seriously asked her where they originated.

If contemporary accounts are accurate, Kai therefore possessed some degree of knowledge of approximately nineteen languages, although only seven—including her native tongue—could properly be described as languages she spoke fluently. Her linguistic abilities were likely the cumulative result of her forced displacement across numerous eastern countries during childhood, her years as a courtesan, Hagana's subsequent education, and several decades spent sailing through highly multicultural regions.

Combat and Military Skills

Kai was an experienced combatant, although her fighting style emphasized speed, agility, and precision rather than physical strength. She was particularly proficient in fighting simultaneously with two short swords, but was also trained in the use of the spear and the Zerrikanian repeating crossbow.

The latter weapon appears to have been particularly important to her, as she eventually gave her own repeating crossbow to Putnam Pitch as a personal farewell gift following the end of their relationship in 1283.

Her decades at sea additionally made Kai an exceptionally experienced sailor and naval commander. She possessed extensive practical knowledge of navigation, shipboard organization, logistics, naval warfare, and the coordination of multiple vessels. Her abilities as a military strategist were

demonstrated most prominently during the War of the Rivers, where she successfully coordinated a pirate confederation numbering approximately thirty ships and ten thousand members while conducting a politically calculated campaign against the Dreki Triumvirate.

Social and Cultural Skills

Kai possessed highly developed social abilities, particularly in negotiation, reading interpersonal dynamics, maintaining authority, and interacting with people from radically different cultural backgrounds. Her experiences as a prostitute and later courtesan, followed by her education under Hagana and subsequent career as a pirate captain, also provided her with considerable knowledge of eastern etiquette in a multicultural level.

According to Putnam Pitch, Kai was additionally proficient in several forms of dance, including Ofieri belly dancing. Pitch's testimony regarding this particular subject has traditionally been regarded with some caution due to the intimate relationship between the two during the Sachs Expedition's time in Buyan.

More independently documented was Kai's moderate knowledge of hairdressing. Members of the expedition recorded that, during their time among her crew, Kai personally participated in maintaining and styling their hair, becoming the principal person responsible for ensuring that the considerably less locally accustomed travelers remained reasonably presentable in that regard, although other members of her crew occasionally assisted her.

Legacy

Kai Yih's legacy can broadly be divided into two categories: direct and indirect.

Her direct legacy can be observed primarily in the lives she changed throughout her career, both positively and negatively. Particularly notable were the numerous women whom she freed from prostitution, an institution toward which Kai developed a profound hostility as a consequence of her own childhood and adolescence.

Her campaigns also produced significant political consequences throughout the eastern coast. Several authoritarian governments were destabilized or overthrown as a result of her actions, most notably the Dreki Triumvirate in Buyan, whose collapse during the Great Summer Rebellion followed the

campaign conducted by Kai and her pirate confederation during the War of the Rivers.

The consequences of her actions, however, were not universally positive. Her raids, attacks, and political interventions caused destruction, displacement, and death throughout several lands, leaving Kai's historical reputation dependent considerably upon the perspective from which her career is examined.

Her indirect legacy can instead be observed through the people who knew her and carried some aspect of her influence into their own lives. The most notable example was the witcher Putnam Pitch.

In 1380, almost seventy years after Kai Yih's death and nearly a century after their brief relationship, Putnam traveled toward the finally confirmed after Fabio Sachs discovered in his last expedition at the beginning of the 14th century, and thus starting to be colonized by that year [Western Continent](#).

During the extended voyage across the ocean, he found himself reflecting upon people and events from his extraordinarily long life. Among those memories was Kai Yih. More specifically, he remembered the enormous black crane tattooed across her back.

Kai had once explained its meaning to him during their time together. Throughout several eastern cultures of the Old Continent, the crane possessed associations with grace, longevity, wisdom, renewal, and protection. Its combination of elegance, strength, agility, and adaptability had made the animal particularly meaningful to her. Decades later, these same qualities resonated with what Putnam intended his new witcher school to represent.

The institution he envisioned would operate in environments radically different from those traditionally associated with many witcher schools. Its members would specialize particularly in threats encountered at sea and in the air, requiring adaptability, mobility, endurance, and the ability to survive across vast and frequently hostile environments. Remembering Kai and their conversation, Putnam made his decision. The crane would become the school's symbol.

Thus, when Putnam eventually established what became known as the School of the Crane, its name and emblem indirectly commemorated a woman who had died almost seventy years earlier. Putnam could not have known during his brief relationship with Kai in 1283 that the black crane tattooed upon her back would eventually become associated with an entirely new group of witchers on the opposite side of the world.

The choice proved remarkably appropriate. Beyond its personal significance to Putnam and its cultural associations in the East, the crane perfectly represented the school's eventual specialization in aquatic and aerial combat. In this way, one of Kai Yih's most enduring legacies emerged somewhere she had never reached in life the New World.

Trivia

- Jûngbû is a reference to [Bhujung](#)^[?], a village in Nepal.
- Kai Yih is primarily inspired by [Zheng Shi](#)^[W], the historical Chinese pirate who became one of the most powerful pirate leaders in history.
- The name Balgi means turtle in Sumerian. It is a reference to [Tortuga](#)^[W], the Caribbean island famous for its historical association with piracy, reflecting the Free Anti-State of Balgi's role as an attempted pirate-controlled territory.



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